AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE

SIEGE™

GAGE • MOLINA • HENNESSY • DELGADO

MARVEL 35

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AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

After a fatal explosion during a televised fight between the New Warriors and a group of dangerous villains in Stamford, Connecticut, the U.S. government passed the federal Superhuman Registration Act. All individuals possessing paranormal abilities must now register with authorities via the Initiative, a plan for training and policing superhumans in this brave new world, aiming to position a local super hero team in each of America's fifty states.

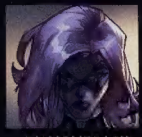
TASKMASTER

THE HOOD

JUSTICE

TIGRA

CONSTRICTOR



DIAMONDBACK

Norman Osborn has been utilizing the Initiative to his own ends, not only promoting the assassin Taskmaster and crime boss The Hood to senior staff positions, but also filling the ranks of the Fifty State Initiative with an army of "reformed" villains trained at Camp H.A.M.M.E.R.

Now, Osborn has led his Dark Avengers and the ranks of the Fifty State Initiative into a siege of Asgard, the legendary home of the Norse gods. Both sides improved their ranks with the arrivals of Captain America and his Avengers, and the Hood and his gang. In desperation, Osborn ordered the Sentry to bring Asgard to the ground, leaving all buried beneath it.

WARNING: READ SIEGE #4 BEFORE THIS BOOK!

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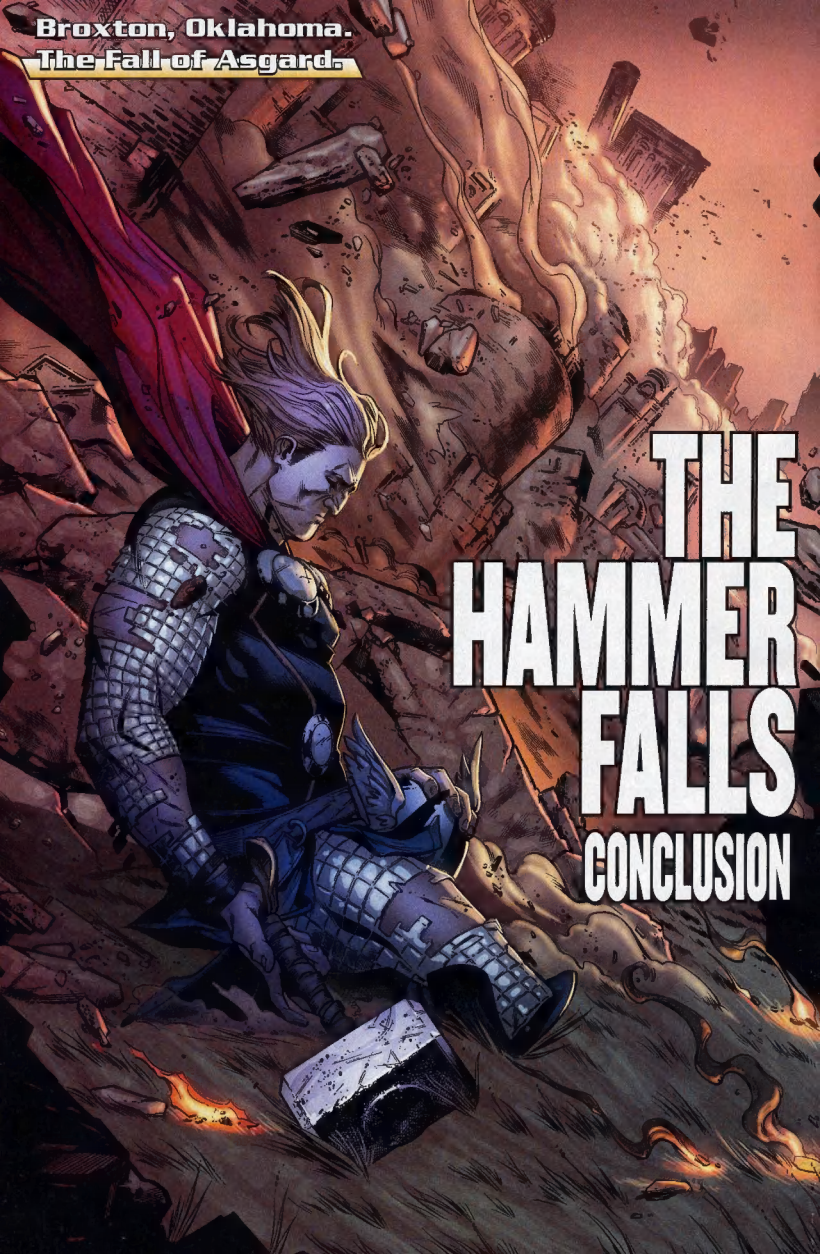

Broxton, Oklahoma.
The Fall of Asgard.
THE HAMMER FALLS
CONCLUSION

O-OSBORN...
RUNNIN' OUT ON ME. LITERALLY CRAWLIN' OVER ME TO SAVE HIS OWN ASS.
WISH I COULD SAY I WAS SURPRISED.
WELL, SCREW HIM. HE'S THE BIG BOSS. NOW THAT THIS OP'S GONE TO HELL, IT'S HIS HEAD THEY'LL BE AFTER.
NOBODY'S WORRYING ABOUT TASKMASTER RIGHT NOW. WHICH GIVES ME A WINDOW'A OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT I DO BEST.
GET THE HELL OUTTA DODGE.
GNH. CRACKED RIBS... HARD TO PUT WEIGHT ON MY RIGHT LEG. HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT IF I WANNA GET AWAY, I'LL NEED SOME--
--HELP...
CONSTRICTOR! FRANK! C'MON, BUDDY, STAND UP!
...HNN... RACHEL... WHERE'S...

RACHEL.
FRANK...?
RACHEL... DIAMONDBACK... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Captain America
STEVE?
GOOD SEEING YOU. WISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE BETTER.
OH, STEVE...

YOU OKAY, PAL?
YEAH...MY BIONIC ARMS ABSORBED THE IMPACT. BUT I GOTTA FIND RACHEL.
HATE TO BREAK IT TO YA, MAN...
...BUT SHE'S THERE.
WITH HIM. HER STAR-SPANGLED EX.
I DON'T MEAN TA BE CRUEL, BUT ARE YA REALLY SURPRISED? SHE'S GOIN' WITH THE WINNING TEAM. IT'S THE SMART PLAY.
FORGET HER. COME ON. WE CAN STILL GET OUTTA HERE.
FRANK...?
YEAH. I HEAR YA. AND YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS...
...THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS ALWAYS GONNA BE.
GOOD MAN. NOW LISTEN. WE NEED TRANSPORT. SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ONE'A THOSE STUPID GOBLIN GLIDERS THAT STILL WORKS...

...STEVE, YOU HAVE TO HELP ME. YOU HAVE TO HELP ME FIND FRANK.
WHO'S FRANK?
THE MAN I--
--THE MAN I LOVE.
WHO SAVED MY LIFE. WHO HELPED ME SURVIVE AND NOT GO COMPLETELY INSANE WHILE I WAS UNDERCOVER IN OSBORN'S INITIATIVE.
YOU KNOW HIM AS... CONSTRICTOR.
I SEE.
ISN'T THAT HIM?
WHERE--?
OH.
...FRANK...
EXCUSE ME, RACHEL.
I SEE SOMETHING I NEED TO DEAL WITH.

HA! CHECK IT OUT. WHAT GOES AROUND...
...COMES AROUND AND SMACKS YOU IN THE FACE.
WELL, WILL YA LOOK AT THAT. I KNEW IT. TIME TO FIT OL' NORMAN FOR AN ARMANI STRAIT-JACKET.
YO, OSBORN! THAT WAS ME WHO HELPED DEADPOOL HUMILIATE YER ASS* WHILE I WAS CASHIN' YER CHECKS! HOW D'YA LIKE THAT?
HEY...CAN WE JUST GO?
YEAH, YEAH, WHY NOT.
*IN DARK REIGN: THUNDERBOLTS/DEADPOOL --DOLLAR BILL
AIN'T NOTHIN' LEFT FOR US HERE.

YOU'RE DEAD. YOU'RE ALL DEAD.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD STOP HIM.
I WAS SAVING YOU.
The Sentry/ The Void
The Hood
Madame Masque
LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

OH NO...
WHAT IS IT?
THE NORN STONES. THE, THE MAGIC...THINGS I GOT FROM LOKI THAT GIVE ME MY POWERS. THAT GAVE US ALL THE EXTRA POWER TO FIGHT THIS FIGHT. HE...
...HE TOOK 'EM BACK, AND GAVE THE POWER TO THEM.
LISTEN TO ME, PARKER. IT'S TIME WE GO.
WE GO NOW.
IT'S OVER. EVERYTHING I HAD... EVERYTHING THAT MADE IT ALL MATTER...IT'S GONE.
THE NORN STONES ARE DESTROYED. I FELT IT. LOKI'S DEAD.
BUT WE'RE ALIVE.
WE'RE ALIVE, PARKER. AND AS LONG AS WE ARE...NOTHING IS OVER.

Camp H.A.M.M.E.R.
Moments Ago.
The Initiative vs.
The Avengers
Resistance.
LOOK SHARP, PEOPLE! WE CAN STILL WIN THIS!
THE HOOD POWERED US UP! WE GOT MAGIC NOW! AND AS LONG AS WE GOT IT...
Scorcher
...WE HAVE A CHANCE TO...
...TO...
...WHERE'D MY DAMN MAGIC GO...?
FZZT

Ultragirl
Night Thrasher
Rage
Justice
Penance
Slapstick
Y'KNOW, FROM THE MINUTE THIS WHOLE DEAL STARTED...
Batwing
Scarlet Spider
Gauntlet
Bengal
Butterball
Tigra
...I HAD A REAL BAD FEELING IT WAS GONNA END EXACTLY LIKE THIS.

AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!

Baron Von Blitzschlag's Lab.
...I BELIEVE... YES. THAT'S CONFIRMED... THE SENTRY IS DEAD. NORMAN OSBORN IS IN CUSTODY. WE'RE WITNESSING HISTORY IN THE MAKING, CHUCK.*
JA, JA. I HAFF SEEN THIS SORT OF HISTORY BEFORE. NEXT COME THE TRIALS.
VELL, THEY CANNOT PROSECUTE ME IF THERE ARE NO SURVIVING RECORDS...
*SEE SIEGE #4 FOR DETAILS! —BARON VON BH!
STOP. STEP AWAY FROM THE COMPUTERS AND PUT YOUR WRINKLED OLD HANDS ON YOUR HEAD.
EH...?
THAT DATA'S GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU AND OSBORN ROT IN PRISON UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE.
AHH, KOMODO. SUCH HARSH VORDS FOR A JÜNGLING IN A WHEELCHAIR.
A JÜNGLING WITH A GUN, BARON. YOU WANT TO SEE IF YOU CAN ELECTROCUTE ME BEFORE I BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT?
HMM...A TEMPTING OFFER...
...BUT VUN I BELIEVE I SHALL DECLINE. AFTER ALL...I VAS JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.
CLOUD 9? GOD, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU. AND WHO'S THAT BEHIND--
--HARDBALL?!

YOU SON OF A--
EASY. YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT.
NO, I'M GUESSING SHE DOES. BUT IT'S COOL.
ABBY, WHY? I KNOW WE WEREN'T CLOSE, BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS...
WE ARE. THAT'S WHY I'M KEEPING YOU FROM BLOWING ROGER'S HEAD OFF BEFORE HE CAN DO--
--THIS.
MY POWERS--?
THEY'RE BACK. YOUR LEGS, TOO. THAT INJECTION NEUTRALIZED THE SPIN TECH IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM.
IF YOU THINK THIS CHANGES ANYTHING BETWEEN US, AFTER ALL YOU DID--
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO HIM ABOUT THAT. IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO BE HONEST WITH YOU...
...AND FOR YOU TO LISTEN. I'M NOT SAYING YOU'LL WANT TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH HIM AFTERWARD. BUT YOU MIGHT SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

WHEN HELL FREEZES--
THINK ABOUT IT. DIDN'T HE ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY? THAT YOU WERE PROTECTED?
IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE, WHO DO YOU THINK RELEASED DRAGON MAN TO SAVE YOU?
PLEASE. WE WERE THE ORIGINAL CLASS OF CADETS. I KNOW A LOT OF BAD THINGS HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE INITIATIVE. BUT GOOD THINGS HAPPENED TOO. LIKE US.
DON'T LET THEM DESTROY THAT TOO. NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT.
FINE. YOU TALK, BLONDIE, I'LL LISTEN. NO GUARANTEE WHAT YOU SAY WILL STOP ME FROM KICKING YOUR BUTT...
WAS THERE EVER?
AH, SUCH A LOVELY REUNION. UND VE SHALL ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER, EH?
THERE'S NO "WE," OLD MAN. YOU'RE STARRING IN THE NEXT SEASON OF LOCKUP.
PERHAPS... PERHAPS NOT. IT IS NOT ONLY CHESS PLAYERS WHO VILL SACRIFICE A PAWN TO CAPTURE THE KING.
ON THIS, IN EXHAUSTIVE DETAIL, YOU VILL FIND RECORDS UFF EVERY ILLEGAL ACT COMMITTED HERE ON THE ORDERS UFF NORMAN OSBORN.
NOW...RATHER THAN ALL THIS UNPLEASANT TALK OF PRISON CELLS... PERHAPS VE CAN DISCUSS SOMETHING IN AN ANKLE BRACELET, EH?

Outside.
HERE. WORD JUST CAME DOWN--THE PRESIDENT STRIPPED NORMAN OSBORN OF ANY AND ALL AUTHORITY.
MOST OF US HAD PROBLEMS WITH WHAT HE WAS DOING ANYWAY. THIS ISN'T A FIGHT WE WANT.
THAT'S APPRECIATED.
ANYONE WHO DIDN'T VIOLATE THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE HAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I PROMISE YOU THAT.
YOU OKAY, TIGRA? YOU LOOK--ARE YOU INJURED?
I'M FINE. I JUST...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS--WE DID IT! NO MORE RUNNING. NO MORE HIDING!
NO MORE [redacted] OSBORN. CAN I GET AN AMEN?
...I KNOW WE GOT OSBORN. I KNOW MOST OF HIS DIRTBAGS ARE GOING TO JAIL. BUT WE DIDN'T GET THEM ALL.
WE WILL. PEOPLE LIKE THAT...THEY ALWAYS MAKE A MISTAKE SOONER OR LATER.
YEAH. YEAH, THEY DO...
...AND I'LL BE WAITING FOR IT.

Classified Superhuman Holding Facility Theta.*
Days Later.
*TO FIND OUT HOW THE HOOD ENDED UP HERE, CHECK OUT NEW AVENGERS: FINALE! —BIG NOBBE BILL
JEEZ--!
HOW'D YOU--WHAT'RE YOU--
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW THIS WHEN YOU BROKE INTO MY HOME AND BRUTALIZED ME. BUT I'M A COP.
NOT IN THE SENSE THAT SUPER HEROES ARE LIKE COPS. I MEAN I AM AN ACTUAL POLICE OFFICER. MY LATE HUSBAND WAS ON THE JOB, AND I AM, TOO.
THERE'S A CODE AMONG PEOPLE WHO WEAR UNIFORMS. COPS. SOLDIERS. FIREMEN. PRISON GUARDS: IF I DECIDED TO COME IN HERE AND KILL YOU...NOT ONLY WOULD THEY NOT STOP ME...
...THEY'D HELP ME.

SIEGE
CHECKLIST

DECEMBER
- ☐ SIEGE: THE CABAL
- ☐ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #31
- ☐ ORIGINS OF SIEGE

JANUARY
- ☐ SIEGE #1
- ☐ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #32
- ☐ DARK AVENGERS #13
- ☐ DARK WOLVERINE #82
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #61
- ☐ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #1
- ☐ SIEGE: STORMING ASGARD - HEROES & VILLAINS

FEBRUARY
- ☐ SIEGE #2
- ☐ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #33
- ☐ DARK AVENGERS #14
- ☐ DARK WOLVERINE #83
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #62
- ☐ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #2
- ☐ THOR #607
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #141

MARCH
- ☐ SIEGE #3
- ☐ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #34
- ☐ DARK AVENGERS #15
- ☐ DARK WOLVERINE #84
- ☐ MIGHTY AVENGERS #35
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #63
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #11
- ☐ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #3
- ☐ THOR #608
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #142

APRIL
- ☐ MIGHTY AVENGERS #36
- ☐ NEW AVENGERS #64
- ☐ DARK AVENGERS #16
- ☐ SIEGE: CAPTAIN AMERICA
- ☐ SIEGE: LOKI
- ☐ SIEGE: SECRET WARRIORS
- ☐ SIEGE: SPIDER-MAN
- ☐ SIEGE: YOUNG AVENGERS
- ☐ THOR #609
- ☐ THUNDERBOLTS #143

MAY
- ☐ SIEGE #4
- ☐ AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE #35
- ☐ DARK AVENGERS #16
- ☐ FALLEN (not final title)
- ☐ SIEGE: EMBEDDED #4

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
OLIVIER COIPEL

SO GO AHEAD.
TALK ME TO DEATH.
I WAS ANGRY WHEN I HEARD THE OTHERS TOOK YOU DOWN. I WANTED TO BE THE ONE.
EXCEPT IF IT HAD BEEN ME THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND THE BODY.
YOU DO THIS NOW, WHILE I'M IN CUSTODY, AND YOU'RE PUTTING A WORLD OF HURT ON YOUR PALS.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? STEVE ROGERS, COMING BACK NOW, DOING WHAT HE DID, IS LIKE THE SECOND COMING OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.
I COULD CUT YOU RIGHT HERE AND IT WOULDN'T GO PAST ME. AND IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU DID TO ME--HOW MUCH YOU'VE MESSED UP MY LIFE--YOU SHOULD KNOW I'D GLADLY DO TIME TO SEE YOU DEAD.
WHEN I CAME HERE, I HONESTLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO.
BUT JUST NOW I SAW SOMETHING THAT MADE UP MY MIND.
LOOK AT YOU.
YOU SMELL. YOU HAVE DRIED PUKE ON YOUR SHOES. YOU'RE LIKE AN ADDICT WHOSE SUPPLY'S BEEN CUT OFF.
YOU GAVE UP EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING YOU CARED ABOUT FOR POWER. AND NOW IT'S GONE...
...AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

THAT'S IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME BECAUSE I'M DOWN? BECAUSE I'M HURTING AND IN A CELL AND YOU THINK IT'S A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH, OR SOME OTHER DUMB RATIONALIZATION?
STUPID. YOU'RE STUPID. I'LL GET MYSELF TOGETHER, I'LL GET OUT OF HERE, AND I'LL COME FIND YOU.
YOU THINK I CHANGED MY MIND BECAUSE I SAW YOU?
NO. IT'S WHAT I SAW IN THE HALL.
I'M LETTING YOU LIVE BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER GET TO HOLD YOUR BABY AGAIN.
AND BECAUSE I WANT TO SPEND A LIFETIME HOLDING MINE.

Avengers Tower
--BELIEVE IT? JUST LIKE THAT, OSBORN'S IN JAIL, H.AM.M.ER.'S GONE, CAPTAIN AMERICA--SORRY, STEVE ROGERS--IS IN CHARGE.
ALL THE TALKING HEADS ON TV ARE CALLING THIS A NEW HEROIC AGE. AND WHAT'S A HEROIC AGE WITHOUT NEW WARRIORS, AM I RIGHT? YOU ALL IN?
I DON'T KNOW, DONYELL. I MEAN, OKAY, THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT'S REPEALED. THE INITIATIVE AS WE KNOW IT IS OVER.
BUT WITH ALL ITS PROBLEMS, IT DID POSITIVE THINGS TOO. MOST OF THE STATE TEAMS--THE GOOD ONES, NOT OSBORN'S--THEY WANT TO KEEP HELPING PEOPLE.
I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD SUPPORT THEM. WHAT DO YOU THINK, VANCE?
I THINK...I LOOK AT THEM. THE CADETS I TAUGHT IN THAT FIRST CLASS. I SEE WHAT THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED. THE HEROES THEY'VE BECOME.
AND I THINK THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR KIDS LIKE THAT. KIDS WITH POWERS, WHO NEED GUIDANCE.
OSBORN WAS SEEKING THEM OUT, YOU KNOW. KIDS NO ONE EVEN KNEW ABOUT. SOME OF THEM HE RECRUITED. SOME HE PRACTICALLY KIDNAPPED. I...
...I WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHERE TO GO FROM HERE. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS...
...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...
...WE HAVE A CHOICE.

TIGRA! OVER HERE!
THAT'S ALMOST ALL OF US. EXCEPT GAUNTLET...HE ASKED TO BE DEPLOYED TO AFGHANISTAN. I TELL YOU, THAT MAN'S WIFE IS A SAINT.
HEY, GUYS. I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL TOGETHER. THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.
THIS IS MY SON, WILLIAM.
OH MY GOD, HE'S ADORABLE!
I...I HAD NO IDEA...
...I'D HEARD A RUMOR YOU WERE PREGNANT. BUT I FIGURED IT WAS JUST GOSSIP...I MEAN, YOU NEVER SHOWED.
A CAT'S GESTATION PERIOD IS TWO MONTHS. I GAVE BIRTH DURING THE TRANSITION BETWEEN TONY STARK'S ADMINISTRATION AND OSBORN'S.
I LEFT HIM ■ THE CARE OF THE CAT PEOPLE I GOT MY POWERS FROM. KEPT IT QUIET. OSBORN WANTED TO...
...WELL. THOSE DAYS ARE OVER. AND I INTEND TO SEE TO IT THEY NEVER RETURN.
I'M GOING TO FIGHT TO MAKE SURE THIS WORLD'S A SAFE PLACE FOR MY SON...AND EVERY CHILD LIKE HIM.
YOU AND I SHOULD TALK...

"...AND WE SHOULD BOTH TALK TO STEVE."
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE BETTER THAN YOU, RACHEL.
STEVE, I... I'M HONORED. REALLY. BUT I'M GOING TO NEED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, OKAY?
--I WANT SUPERHUMANS TO SERVE VOLUNTARILY. A COMPULSORY REGISTRATION ACT ISN'T IN ANYONE'S BEST INTERESTS, BUT THAT SAID...
...THE FIFTY STATE TEAMS TONY FOUNDED ARE MADE UP OF GOOD PEOPLE. IF THEY WANT TO CONTINUE, I'D LIKE THEM TO. AND I'LL NEED SOMEONE TO COORDINATE THEM.
OF COURSE. DID YOU...IS THERE ANY WORD FROM CONSTRICTOR? SORRY-- FRANK?
NO. NOTHING...
Japan
PLEASURE DOIN' BUSINESS. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT TOOT SWEET. RIGHT, CONSTRICTOR?
CONSTRICTOR!
YEAH, YEAH, SURE...
...WHATEVER.

What happened to the others? Glad you asked...
Bengal
Moved his family to Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and opened a martial arts school. Refuses all requests for interviews.
Prodigy
Was released from prison and honored for his resistance to Norman Osborn. Currently working the motivational speaker circuit while exploring reuniting the Slingers.
Trauma
Last seen walking the earth, like Caine in "Kung Fu." Varying reports have him studying with Dr. Stephen Strange or seeking a man named Karl in Pittsfield, MA.
Debrii
No longer a fugitive, but remains in Paris, where she is beloved as the snarky judge of a TV talent competition, "Superpouvoir."
Butterball
Batwing
Returned to Butterball's hometown of Morganton, NC, where they founded a super hero team to replace the disgraced and imprisoned U-Foes.
Currently they are the only members.
The End

AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

Well, that's it…the end of AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE.

Not for the usual reason. Sales were healthy. But from the start, when it was born out of CIVIL WAR, this book has been firmly entrenched in the larger Marvel Universe. And with the repeal of the Superhuman Registration Act, its premise—depicting the boot camp that trains the next generation of Marvel heroes—no longer applies.

But that doesn't mean an end to new heroes. Or the need to train them.

So I hope you'll join me in a few short weeks for the debut of AVENGERS ACADEMY, a new Avengers family title that sees some of the most interesting, complex Avengers— Hank Pym/The Wasp, Tigra, Justice, Quicksilver, Jocasta and Penance/Speedball—training a new generation of super-powered youths. But the faculty really consists of every Avenger, and the writers of the other books have given their blessing to use them…a kindness I plan to take full advantage of.

The artist? Oh, just superstar MIKE McKONE, fresh off AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! My first work for Marvel was with Mike, and I couldn't be happier to reunite with him on a book where we both get to utilize heroes we grew up on and create a new generation of Marvel characters. The students are, in fact, all new, except one—Reptil, who you met in an Initiative Special not long ago. He'll star in a short story in ENTER THE HEROIC AGE, a one-shot coming soon that will give you the briefest taste of what's in store, and introduce you to Mike's career-best work on this book.

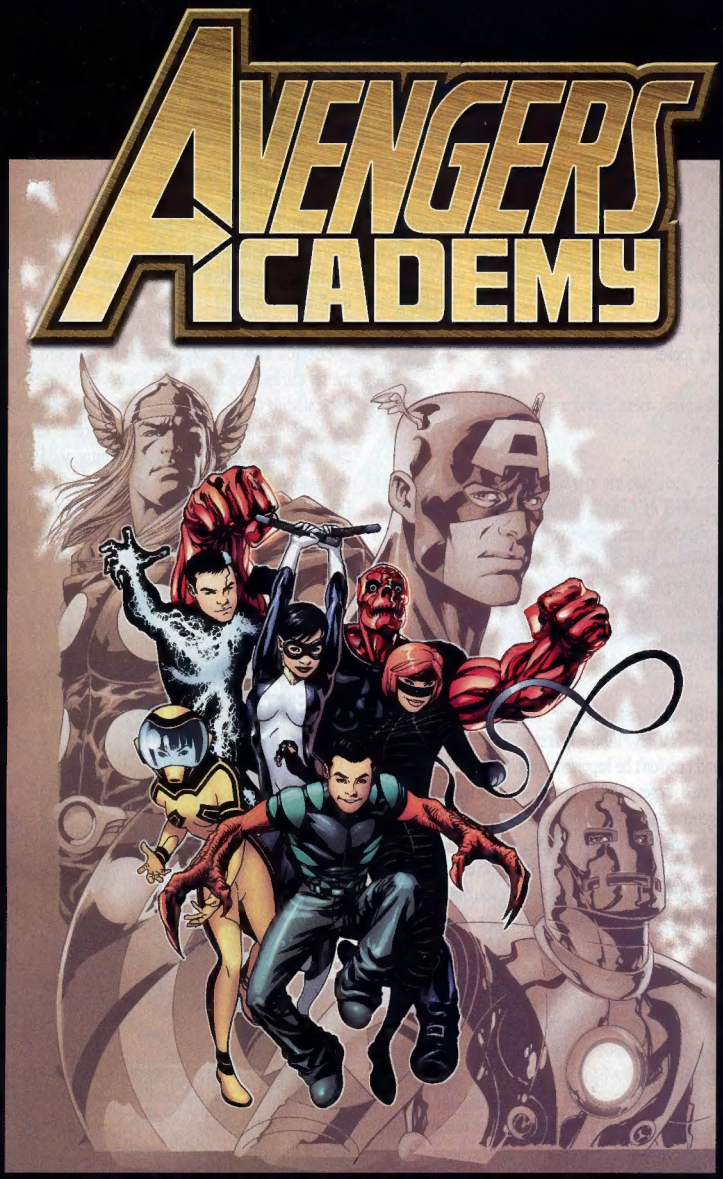
We know full well that teen hero comics are nothing new, and that for this to work, there has to be something to set it apart. A portion of last fall's Avengers Retreat was devoted to that—with creative minds like Bendis, Brubaker, Fraction and Quesada contributing one brilliant idea after another—and we think we've come up with a very cool approach that makes this book different. I don't want to spoil it, but our intention is for the last page of issue #1 to leave the reader with the same feeling as THUNDERBOLTS #1 or RUNAWAYS #1. I know times are tough. I know comics are expensive. Just do me this one favor—try issue #1. Pre-order it, if you can. With your support, we think we can create something special…a book worthy of the Avengers name.

In case you think I've forgotten what title you're holding, let me say thanks to each and every creator who's worked on this book, starting of course with Dan Slott, who created the series and was kind enough to first invite me to co-write it and then take the reins; Stefano Caselli, the co-creator and first artist; all the awesomely talented artists, colorists, letterers, Executive Editor Tom Brevoort and our ace editors (Bill and Rachel will also edit Academy)…plus everyone at Marvel, all the retailers, and, of course, you, for making it all possible.

Thank you. I mean that. Hope to see you soon.
– Chris Gage

NEXT:
ENTER THE HEROIC AGE #1

READ THIS ON 5/19/10, THEN TURN THE PAGE TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT FROM CHRISTOS GAGE AND MIKE McKONE...



MEET THE FIRST CLASS ON 6/2/10!